

Message Text

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15/13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20

RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 290745Z JAN 74 ZDK

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2260

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 702

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA. 2.)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS CI NZ SP

SUBJ: NEW ROK AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS

1. MOFA HAS ANNOUNCED THAT FORMER COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM SHIN SANG-CHUL WILL BE APPOINTED ROK AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN, FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLYMAN HAN BYONG-KI WILL BECOME ROK AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, AND AMBASSADOR TO CHILE KANG CHUN-HUI WILL BE REASSIGNED AS AMBASSADOR TO NEW ZEALAND.

2. AMBASSADOR SHIN WAS BORN JULY 9, 1924, GRADUATED FROM JAPANESE AIR ACADEMY IN 1945 AND PURSUED A MILITARY CAREER IN ROK ARMY AND AIR FORCE, RETIRING AS A MAJOR GENERAL IN 1962. LAST MILITARY ASSIGNMENT WAS CHIEF KOREAN MEMBER UNC COMPONENT OF MILITARY ARMISTICE COMMISSION. SERVED AS ROK AMBASSADOR TO VIETNAM FROM 1962 TO 1970, THEN AS MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS FROM 1970 TO DECEMBER 1973. SHIN SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, HAS WORKED CLOSELY WITH AMERICANS, WHO HAVE FOUND HIM
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PERCEPTIVE, FRANK AND ARTICULATE.

3. HAN PYONG-KI WAS BORN JUNE 4, 1931 AND ENTERED ROK ARMY AS OFFICER IN 1953 FOLLOWING STUDY AT CENTRAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN SEOUL AND SERVICE IN KOREAN NATIONAL POLICE. IN ARMY HE WORKED FOR PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE AND MARRIED PARK'S DAUGHTER BY A FIRST MARRIAGE IN 1958. AFTER PARK BECAME PRESIDENT, HAN LEFT THE MILITARY, SERVING AS POLITICAL OFFICER AT ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON IN 1961 AND AS ROK CONSUL IN NEW YORK IN 1962. HE RECEIVED MASTERS DEGREE FROM FARLEIGH DICKINSON IN 1966. RETURNED TO ROK TO ENTER POLITICS AND BUSINESS. HE WAS ELECTED TO 8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN 1971 AND SERVED UNTIL ASSEMBLY WAS DISSOLVED IN 1972. HAN IS PERSONABLE AND SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL. WHILE HERE, HAN HAS SOUGHT OUT EMBOFFS AND ENJOYED CLOSE PERSONAL TIES WITH SEVERAL. HIS APPOINTMENT OBVIOUSLY DUE TO HIS RELATIONSHIP TO PRESIDENT.

4. AMBASSADOR KANG IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO WAS ASSIGNED TO CHILE IN 1970. BORN MAY 6, 1913, KANG GRADUATED FROM NIHON UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN IN 1943. AFTER THE WAR HE BECAME A TEACHER IN SEOUL,. THEN JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE, SERVING FIRST AT THE ROK CONSULATE IN OSAKA. KANG HAS SERVED IN THAILAND, HONG KONG, EGYPT, AND GERMANY AND AS DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BUREAU IN MOFA. IN 1968 HE BECAME ROK AMBASSADOR TO THE IVORY COAST, WITH CONCURRENT ACCREDITATION TO SEVERAL OTHER WEST AFRICAN COUNTRIES. AS AMBASSADOR TO CHILE, HE HAS ALSO SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS ROK AMBASSADOR TO ECUADOR AND COLUMBIA, BUT SPENT MUCH OF HIS TOUR IN SEOUL DUE TO ROKG DISPLEASURE WITH ALLENDE GOVERNMENT'S RECOGNITION OF NORTH KOREA. KANG SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND IS AT EASE IN COMPANY OF WESTERNERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SEOUL00702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974018/aaaaahiv.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW ROK AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS
TAGS: PFOR, KS, CI, NZ, SP, (SHIN SANG-CHUL), (HAN BYONG-KI), (KANG CHUN-HUI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005